

STATE OF MARYLAND

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

MARTIN O'MALLEY
GOVERNOR



ANTHONY G. BROWN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

STATE OFFICE BUILDING, 15TH FLOOR
301 WEST PRESTON STREET
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21201

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

Israel C. "Izzy" Patoka, Executive Director

MAIN NUMBER	410-767-4159
FAX	410-333-5957
TTY	410-333-5181

Media Contact:

Tony White
Communications Director
Office: 410-767-6248
Cell: 410-926-8216

For immediate release

GOCI Chief of Staff Appointed to CHAI Board

Tony Bridges, Chief of Staff in the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives, was recently named to the Board of Directors of Comprehensive Housing Assistance, Inc. (CHAI) of Baltimore. Bridges was formally installed at the organization's annual meeting, June 12, 2012, at the Jewish Community Center in the Park Heights community. He is the first African American and non-Jewish person to serve on the board.

CHAI's mission is to develop and support thriving, stable communities in neighborhoods with a substantial Jewish population. Created in 1983, the organization primarily serves the communities of Glen, Fallstaff, Cross Country, Cheswolde and Mount Washington of Northwest Baltimore. Following a recommendation from the Board of Directors, the organization is looking to expand its engagement in the Pikesville and Owings Mills neighborhoods of Baltimore County.

Board members are asked to join at least one of CHAI's standing committees, attend board meetings and participate in CHAI community outreach events. Board members are also asked to support The Associated's Annual Campaign.

To fulfill its mission, CHAI supports neighborhood development while providing services to the most vulnerable populations in the target areas. It promotes homeownership through the provision of loans for the purchase and upgrade of homes. CHAI also develops and manages affordable rental properties.

The Governor's Office of Community Initiatives (GOCI) coordinates outreach to ethnic, cultural, and faith-based communities as well as to local government organizations across Maryland.

Bridges earned a Bachelor's Degree in Mass Communication from Frostburg State University. He received his certificate in Strategic Public Relations and Integrated Communications from Towson University. He is a former Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Scholar, where he researched public perception and communication at the University of Maryland at College Park and is also a Fellow of the Academy of Excellence in Local Governance through the University of Maryland. Bridges was recently recognized as a National 2010 TRIO Achiever through the Council for Opportunities in Education.

He currently resides in Baltimore with his wife Nicole, five year-old daughter Lori, and three year-old son Trey.